



## Greenbelt's 66th Annual Labor Day Festival: Schedule of Events

by Gary Childs

In any of the past 65 years of the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, by this time during the week before the actual event, the community would be all a-buzz with activity. The midway, booths and main stage would be in various stages of setup. Sound systems would be checked and re-checked. From food vendors to performers to the many contest (Retro Town Fair, Pet Show, Photo contest) participants to those selling things (arts and crafts, used books), many folks would be making sure everything was in order for the upcoming onslaught. The Festival has been a mainstay of the community for a long time. This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Greenbelt Labor



K'Lah Morgan (16) performs with the Greenbelt City Stars during the Labor Day Parade on September 2, 2019.

Day Festival Committee decided it would be necessary to cancel the in-person Festival, the 66th. That doesn't mean, however, that

the Festival would not happen at all. The committee, along with See **FESTIVAL**, page 12

## Returning the Absentee Ballot: Drop Box, Mail or In Person

by Edith J. Beauchamp

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Absentee ballot requests, sent out by the Prince George's County Board of Elections to all registered voters, began arriving at homes in Greenbelt last week. Voters who do not plan to vote in

person will want to return the request as soon as possible through the mail so they receive their mail-in ballot in plenty of time.

Ballot drop boxes were very popular during the June primary election for returning completed ballots directly to the county elections board. The State Board of Elections expects to provide at

least 127 boxes to be deployed across the 23 counties and Baltimore City.

Most ballot drop boxes are expected to be located near the open voting center locations where early voting will take place. Voters may drop off a ballot in its signed and sealed return envelope to any of those boxes at any time, day or night, prior to November 3 or before the final 8 p.m. closing on election day. The county board will publicize drop box locations closer to the election or in the instructions with the mail-in ballots themselves. These boxes will have specialized security. Ballots will be picked up daily and then coded as to where and when they were picked up as part of the tracking process.

See **BALLOTS**, page 9

### What Goes On

**Monday, September 7**  
No City Council Meeting:  
Labor Day Holiday  
**Tuesday, September 8**  
8 p.m. Special Worksession:  
Maglev  
**Wednesday, September 9**  
8 p.m. Worksession with District 2 School Board Member Joshua Thomas  
All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

## Back to School 2020: Distance Learning Enabled by Technology

by Rayonna Burton-Jernigan

On August 31, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), which includes Greenbelt schools, began the 2020-2021 school year with online distance learning. Not only is this required because of the ongoing pandemic, but it is also part of the district shift toward one-to-one personalized technology-based instruction.

"With the onset of distance learning, we have an opportunity to transform education in Prince George's County," said Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson in a press release. "Students and families consistently express a desire for instruction that better utilizes technology and meets individual needs. By going one-to-one we will deliver more personalized learning and equip all students with the academic

tools and resources needed for success in a digital learning environment."

Classes will be conducted in real time for all students. Bell schedules are as follows:

- Greenbelt Elementary School: 9 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.
- Magnolia Elementary School: 9:15 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.
- Springhill Lake Elementary School: 7:45 a.m. to 1:55 p.m.
- Greenbelt Middle School: 9 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.
- Dora Kennedy French Immersion School: 9:15 a.m. to 3:55 p.m.
- Eleanor Roosevelt High School: 8:45 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

In order to make the process easier for students and families, PGCPS introduced different methods.

See **SCHOOL**, page 6



Greenbelt Middle School student Noah Eubanks is ready for distance learning on the first day of school.

## City, County Council Discuss COVID, Maglev, Economy, Housing

by Matthew Arbach

Prince George's County Council Chair Todd Turner and Councilmembers Mel Franklin and Calvin Hawkins met with the Greenbelt City Council on August 28, to inform the council about the county's efforts in this difficult time and air issues that are of concern to Greenbelt.

Councilmember Judith Davis began by commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratifying of the 19th Amendment, securing women's right to vote.

Currently, the county council is in recess and will resume after Labor Day. For the last five and a half months, meetings have been conducted virtually.

Turner thanked the city council for a successful Grab and Go event in July at the Community Center, at which council members

and others gave out free meals to seniors. Organizers looked to having another in September. He was also grateful for the Lunch for Heroes event for the city's first responders.

The county's budget was passed in May. Yet, due to the fiscal uncertainty of this pandemic, Turner said the county council is in "constant conversation" with the county's administration as circumstances change and require funding.

### COVID-19 Issues

The county has \$15 million earmarked from the CARES Act and has passed on \$1.4 million for use in Greenbelt. These funds are exclusively for COVID-19 issues and must be spent

See **COUNCIL**, page 8



Mia Fair works for Public Works as part of their Summer Help Program. See story, page 7.



# Letters to the Editor

## Swinging Time

My daughter and I would like to acknowledge the Park and Recreation team's efforts in keeping the playgrounds safe and clean. The playground is in the Stream Valley Park.

Elisabeth Walker

## Just 15 Minutes To Baltimore?

It is clever propaganda for maglev proponents to say that, were the maglev built, D.C. and Baltimore locations would become only a 15-minute ride apart. Journalists and elected officials have repeated the 15-minute figure, but it is a half-truth that obscures a more important truth.

Despite the speed of the proposed superconducting (SC) maglev, it would be faster for most people to drive rather than take the maglev. As we know from our train or plane trips, it takes time to travel from home to either train station or airport and then more time to travel from the final station or airport to our real destination.

The table that accompanies this letter suggests that the total duration of a trip via maglev would be about 80 minutes starting from various locations 2 to 4 miles from the Baltimore maglev station and ending at one of several locations within the Capital Beltway. If you just drove there directly, Google maps reports that these trips would take less time: about 50 or 65 minutes during mid-day or rush hour, respectively.

There is no guarantee that this sort of trip-duration analysis will appear in the maglev's draft Environmental Impact Statement. There is no evidence that elected officials are commissioning independent trip-duration analyses for



PHOTO BY ELISABETH WALKER

Baby Z is excited to use her swing, and really appreciates the efforts to keep it safe and clean!

the maglev.

For this reason, it is up to us to think for ourselves, share our ideas and influence the debate about whether or not it is a good idea to build a maglev between Baltimore and Washington. This topic is particularly relevant to Greenbelt because the construction of maglev alignment J1 would destroy much of our Forest Preserve and noise from operating alignment J would curtail our ability to enjoy this forest.

The following people wish to cosign this letter, each acting as an individual, not acting in any formal capacity: John Ausema, Susan Barnett, Bryan Bruns, Colin Byrd, Paul Downs, Valerie Elliott, Susan Harris, Donna Hoffmeister, Lecann Irwin, Aileen Kroll, Molly Lester, and Jean Newcomb. Concern about the maglev is widespread, including among Greenbelters who are more or less politically active under ordinary circumstances.

Owen Kelley

Approximate Duration in Minutes: Baltimore-to-DC Maglev Trip

Trip segment	Rush hour	Mid-day
2-to-4-mile drive to downtown Baltimore maglev station	14	7
Wait for maglev train	4	15
Ride on a maglev train that skips the BWI station	15	15
5-minute walk to Union Station Metro platform + wait for train	5+4	5+6
Ride on DC Metro train	26	26
Walk or drive from Metro station to inside-the-Beltway destination	8	8
<b>Total travel time</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>82</b>

In 2020, Owen Kelley performed this analysis considering Baltimore locations 2-4 miles from the maglev station: John Hopkins Homewood campus, Canton, Riverside, and Locust Point. The inside-the-DC-Beltway locations considered were College Park, Bethesda,

and Crystal City. Downtown Baltimore driving times from maps.google.com. Estimated wait for the maglev assumes rush-hour and mid-day service every 8 or 30 minutes in each direction. Average wait time is half of the time between trains. DC subway-ride duration and wait

time from Union Station, <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/trip-planner/>. The 8-minutes post-DC-Metro represents either a half-mile walk or driving conditions and distances similar to those of the mid-day downtown Baltimore trip segment.

## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.



See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.



KEEP CALM  
AND  
WEAR A MASK

## Corrections

In the issue of August 27, the photograph caption on page 1 missed a few characters and jumbled up a name. The caption should have referred to Vi Ward-Diamond, senior staff, American Postal Union. The News Review regrets the error.

Also in the issue of August 27, the large white bird in the photo on page 12 is a Great Egret.



"Labor Day cancelled! Why didn't someone tell me?"

- News Review, October 28, 2003; new caption September 3, 2020

# Greenbelt News Review

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DEADLINES: Letters, Photos and Articles under 700 words - 2 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads and stories over 700 words - 2 p.m. Monday, Classified Ads and camera-ready Display Ads - 6 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be e-mailed, or mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 2 p.m. Tuesday) or dropped through the mail slot for our office on the east side of the Community Center, (side closest to the Municipal Building) 15 Crescent Road. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 10 p.m.



# Community Events

## At the Library

While Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGC-MLS) branches remain closed, the library continues to offer virtual events for the public. A full schedule of upcoming programs may be accessed at [pgcmls.info/virtual-events](http://pgcmls.info/virtual-events).

Customers with questions are invited to call Ask a Librarian at 240-455-5451 or email [askalibrarian@pgcmls.info](mailto:askalibrarian@pgcmls.info) with questions. Library staff are available by phone Tuesdays 1 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 1 to 5 p.m. Greenbelt Library curbside pickup is also available during these hours.

### Book Discussion

The Library will host a lively virtual adult book discussion of *Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, on Tuesday, September 15, at 7 p.m. The book is this year’s One Maryland One Book selection. Copies of the book are available to read before this date by scheduling a curbside pickup appointment while supplies last. Customers may participate in this event via Zoom by accessing [pgcmls.zoom.us](https://pgcmls.zoom.us) or calling 301-715-8592 and entering Meeting ID 995 7265 1798 followed by Passcode 115499. Participants will enter a virtual waiting room prior to gaining full admittance.

### Requesting Books

Hold requests for up to 50 items can be via [catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris](http://catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris) or 240-455-5451. Patrons are notified when the items they requested are available so they can schedule a pickup appointment. They may receive multiple notification messages as items are processed, yet they need to schedule only one pickup appointment unless there are more than 50 items to be retrieved. Pickup by pedestrians or by bicyclists must be indicated when scheduling a pickup time.

Holds will expire after seven business days; patrons should notify the library if they cannot keep an appointment and reschedule within that seven-day window.

Returned items must be placed in the returned book slot, not handed to library staff. Items need to be in quarantine for five days before they are checked-in and processed. Customers should allow five to seven days for items to clear, so they may temporarily appear as overdue in patrons’ accounts. The Library is now fine-free: all existing overdue fines have been waived.



## Virtual Community Tea

The Greenbelt Virtual Community Tea now meets on the second Thursday of each month. The next tea will be on Thursday, September 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

These teas are strictly social, no agenda. Sometimes the group discusses serious topics (COVID-19, Black Lives Matter), other times lighter topics (favorite Netflix, where to get take-out food). To access the Zoom link, visit [facebook.com/pg/greenbelttimebank/events/](https://facebook.com/pg/greenbelttimebank/events/).

## No Market On Sunday

The Farmers Market normally does not run on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Although consideration was given to filling the void left by the cancellation of the Labor Day Festival, a poll of vendors and board members plus some lingering possibilities of other activities using the parking lot that weekend meant it was impractical to add another market to the schedule.

As a consequence, there will be no Farmers Market on Sunday, September 6. The normal market will resume on Sunday, September 13 during its regular hours of 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot in front of the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center.

The market season continues until the weekend before Thanksgiving, so the last regular market this year is November 22. At the moment, a Holiday Market is still planned; further information will be available in due course.

As has been the policy from the start of the season, masks and hand sanitizer continue to be required at the entrance to the market and masks are available (donation requested) at the entry if needed. Entry and exit are separated and the market flow is clockwise with no reverse travel permitted.

Entry to the market is throttled so that the market is not overcrowded and it’s possible to maintain six-foot distancing. Shoppers should note that the most crowded portion of the market is usually on the far side of the loop and that the cause of any restriction on entry may not be visible from the entrance.

The market is a loop and stalls already passed may be reached by continuing forward around the loop. Shoppers may not touch the produce or place reusable bags on any market surface.

Respect the rules of the market – they are there for the protection of all concerned. Those who feel they cannot observe the requirements should not attend. The market managers do not enjoy enforcing the restrictions and are grateful for the thanks of all the customers who are pleased and relieved that they do.

Those who need assistance to obtain service at the market should contact the board at [info@greenbeltfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@greenbeltfarmersmarket.org) so suitable arrangements can be made.

## Greenbelt Recreation Homeschool Art Classes

Greenbelt Recreation has a variety of art classes. Many of the children’s art classes are offered both after school and during the day to accommodate homeschoolers. These include a series of visionary art classes taught by Leah Cohen and a Maryland wildlife class taught by Rachel Cross. Find information on all Greenbelt Recreation classes by going to [greenbeltnmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/recreation) and clicking on Fall Classes.

## Toastmasters Meet Online Wednesdays

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club has gone virtual. Those interested in improving communication or leadership skills are invited to join online or by phone every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Find details for joining remotely at [greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org](http://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org).

## Kohn Scholarship Bake Sale, Sept. 13

Dena Kohn was a homespun City of Greenbelt community activist for her short 23 years of life. She worked to make the lives of other people better in her local community and in the larger metropolitan area. Her life was dedicated to volunteering and raising money for the betterment of the lives of others.

The Dena Kohn Scholarship Fund provides scholarships each summer to teenagers in financial need to participate in The Theatre Lab’s Musical Theatre Institute for teens. Each year, the Fund celebrates and commemorates Dena’s life and spirit of giving by raising money for the scholarship. The fund was established to perpetuate the memory and spirit of a lifelong Greenbelt resident and the values of giving back that she cherished.

Due to the challenges of COVID-19, there will be a drive-by fundraiser on Sunday, September 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 8012 Brett Place. Delectable baked goods by a renowned Greenbelt amateur baker and pottery by a local Greenbelt ceramic arts teacher will be available for purchase in a contact-free outdoor setting. Unfortunately, there will not be any mini-golf this year but people can still “sponsor a hole” in the spirit of the event. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Dena Kohn Memorial Scholarship.

Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at 301-345-8755 or [d-backs1@juno.com](mailto:d-backs1@juno.com) with questions or to make a donation.



## Labor Day Book Sale Supports GES PTA

The Greenbelt Elementary School Parent Teacher Association’s beloved Labor Day Book Sale is on. It will be held in a new and creative format this year – instead of one location, there will be many. On Saturday, September 5, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., books will be displayed in yards throughout Greenbelt.

Book seekers can drive, bike or walk to participating homes to select books from volunteer book sellers. No payment will be exchanged – shoppers are free to take any books they would like. Normally, paperbacks cost \$1 and hardbacks are each \$2. Donations to the PTA may be made at [paypal.me/greenbeltespta](https://paypal.me/greenbeltespta).

On Sunday, donors are welcome to deliver any books they wish to donate directly to the PTA’s leftover-book buyer, which also supports the PTA. Book donation drop-off is Sunday, September 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lower parking lot behind the Co-op grocery store. CDs and DVDs will be accepted but no encyclopedias, textbooks or games. The PTA is unable to pick up books from homes this year.

All are invited to participate in both buying and offering books by putting them out on a table or blanket in the yard. Follow COVID-19 distancing guidelines. For more information, including a map of book locations, visit [bit.ly/3h0o1U9](https://bit.ly/3h0o1U9).

## Voter Information Offered Saturdays

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club will be hosting voter information tables at several locations throughout the city. Weather permitting, information on voting requirements, absentee ballots, voting locations and drop boxes will be available to the public from 1 to 4 p.m. every Saturday, beginning September 12 and concluding on October 31.

Outdoor table set-ups will be placed at the Giant Supermarket at Beltway Plaza, Roosevelt Center and Schrom Hills Park.

To volunteer to pass out information and answer questions, or for more information, send an email to [GreenbeltVotes2020@gmail.com](mailto:GreenbeltVotes2020@gmail.com). Include name, email address, telephone number and preferred dates and location. Date and location selections will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Emailed confirmations responding to requests will be sent within 48 hours of receipt.

## Free Meals for Students At PG Public Schools

Meal pickup and delivery will be free for all Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) students beginning Wednesday, September 2, through Thursday, December 31.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Wednesday meal distribution will consist of meals through September 8. The regular distribution schedule will resume on September 9.

All schools in Greenbelt will serve as meal distribution sites. Multi-day meals are available for pickup Mondays and Wednesdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Meals will also be delivered to many communities by school bus on the same days during the same time period. Visit the PGCPS website for more information and a list of delivery locations.

Students picking up meals do not need identification. Parents and guardians should bring a student ID or most recent report card.

## Korean Workshops

The Korean Education Center in Washington, D.C., is offering a sixth phase of free Korean workshops online. Topics will include Korean language and Korean culture such as calligraphy, paper crafts, K-pop, K-dramas and more.

The first interest meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16. Meetings will be every Wednesday for 12 weeks. Those interested in the language and culture of Korea, register using the link below. The program is now open to anyone over 18 years old. Share this information with anyone who might find it beneficial.

Registration is required. See [docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpS-6Mp7iYAA8LdC-fPX60GF-mxbiO2arDVpsTkMU07w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpS-6Mp7iYAA8LdC-fPX60GF-mxbiO2arDVpsTkMU07w/viewform).

## GCAN Meets Virtually On September 9

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will hold its first meeting of the fall on Wednesday, September 9, 7 to 9 p.m., via Zoom.

The major focus will be a discussion of 350.org’s Six Goals for a Just Recovery. To learn more about these goals visit [350.org/us-just-recovery-principles](https://350.org/us-just-recovery-principles).

Representatives from community organizations will give updates on the status of the following issues, and how to participate in their activities: maglev (derived from “magnetic levitation”), Citizens Against Beltway Expansion (CABE), Royal Farms gas station project and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination.

Zoom logon details will be available soon on the GCAN website ([chears.org/gcan](https://chears.org/gcan)) and Facebook page: [facebook.com/pg/chearsorg/events](https://facebook.com/pg/chearsorg/events).

Start off the season of activism by being informed about these important issues.

For more info, contact Lore Rosenthal, [SimplicityGroupsMd@gmail.com](mailto:SimplicityGroupsMd@gmail.com), 301-345-2234 (land-line).

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Sunday Sept 13 at 3pm on ZOOM**

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION, INC.

CONNECT WITH GATE ON

This year we will be hosting our Annual Membership Meeting online.

To receive a link or phone number to join us on ZOOM please email:

**[greenbeltaccess@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltaccess@gmail.com)**

We will be voting on three Board Member positions by anonymous online vote.

Members will receive a link to vote for candidates the day before the meeting.

Nominations are now closed.

Members will also be voting on Proposed Amendments to the Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. By-Laws which can be accessed via our website:

**<https://www.greenbeltacesstv.org/bylaws>**

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77

FIND OUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE at [www.greenbeltacesstv.org](http://www.greenbeltacesstv.org) by clicking on Channel



# Public Works Thanks Mike Howard for 32 Years of Service

by Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll



PHOTO BY KEVIN CARPENTER-DRISCOLL

Department of Public Works Director Jim Sterling presents a commemorative plaque to Mike Howard.

The Department of Public Works bid a fond farewell to Mike Howard after over 32 years of service, as he began his well-deserved retirement on July 31. Howard’s career with Public Works began on April 11, 1988, after he followed his coworker, William Smith, from A & W Industries in Landover, where they manufactured Serta mattresses. After Smith left for the City of Greenbelt, Howard recalls, “I kept bugging him to hire me.” A few years later, Howard got the chance for employment working with the city, and again with Smith.

Since that time, Howard has been a constant presence on the Trash and Recycling crew, tirelessly working through all kinds of weather but always with a sunny disposition. “Mike is a very reliable gentleman. Came to work every day and did everything and anything you asked him to do and always with a great attitude,” Smith recounts, having spent the last 15 years as Howard’s supervisor, working with him on a daily basis.

Howard is described by many as a kind man of few words, and when asked to describe his time working with Public Works his response was simply, “Enjoyable.” When asked if he had any fond memories while working for the city, he gave a knowing smirk, chuckled and immediately talked about the people he got

to work with over the years. He remembered his first crew chief, Charlie, and Woo, his backup. “They were a trip. And talk about antics, Chuck Rall is a real nice guy but he will get up to it!” Howard was presented with a plaque commemorating his years of service to the city, as well as a number of gift cards to his favorite restaurant, during a socially distanced send-off from his peers. The Department of Public Works, along with everyone at the City of Greenbelt, appreciate his decades of service and wish him the best as he transitions into retirement.



## Obituaries

### Michelle Hurwitz

Michelle Hurwitz, 37, died on August 30, 2020, at Anne Arundel Medical Center. She is survived by her sons, Jaden, 18 and Roman, 14, both of Greenbelt; her mother, Peggy Barott of Greenbelt; her brothers Wesley

(Kristen) of Syracuse, N.Y., Keith (Laura) of Pasadena, Md., Ryan (Sarah) of Westminster, Md.; sister, Chelsea; seven nieces and six nephews. Michelle attended Greenbelt Middle School and Eleanor Roosevelt High School and lived in Greenbelt until her death.



Our condolences to the family and friends of Michelle Hurwitz, a life-long resident of Greenbelt who died on August 30.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



PHOTO BY AMY KNESEL

Emerson (3rd grade), Laila (3) and Chase (5th grade) Goddard pose with their laptops and blue-light-blocking glasses for a non-traditional first day of school photo.

### Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

### Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc) [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410



Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor  
In person worship services cancelled for now.  
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.  
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

Greenbelt Community Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

Rev. Deb Vaughn, Guest Minister  
Check us out on Facebook Live  
this Sunday at 10:15 AM  
<https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD>

1 Hillside Road

301-474-6171

### Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue  
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family  
in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
All services and activities are currently virtual  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

The Bible Says...

Oh give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good,  
For His lovingkindness is everlasting.  
Psalm 107:1



Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11a ONLINE  
[MCFcc.org/online](https://www.mcfcc.org/online)

### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



September 6 10 a.m.

"Ingathering Sunday: Celebration of Community"

Rev. Rachel Christensen; with Worship Associates Elizabeth Porter and John Barr; and virtual Choir and Chalices Dancers

Building and maintaining our community especially in challenging times.  
Online Only. Streamed on Zoom at <http://bit.ly/PBUUCfall20>

Worship with us at  
**Greenbelt Baptist Church**

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Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)





### City Notes

Museum staff and City Planning met to discuss commemorating Toaping Castle within the Royal Farms site and fulfilled a request for historical research on Indian Springs.

Current Animal Shelter residents are one rabbit, three kittens and eight cats, including a feral cat being socialized before release.

Horticulture/Parks pruned trees and reduced vegetation at the Fire Station. Refuse/Recycling collected 29.29 tons of refuse and 12.20 tons of recyclables. Building Maintenance oversaw installation of a door security system at the Municipal Building.


Arts staff helped 15 Crankie Campers build story-telling machines. Growing Virtual Recreation Center content includes a fun first fishing experience. The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center added more sessions for family/recreational swimming. Recreation staff ordered COVID-19 screening supplies. Therapeutic Recreation trained on Creating Positive Practices to Reduce Unconscious Bias and coordinated meal delivery for 39 seniors.

Park Rangers cautioned several unmasked, unpermitted groups of 15 to 30 people.

### Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



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# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

### VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 7-11

Monday, September 7: No Meeting-Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8 at 8:00pm **SPECIAL MEETING-Proposed MAGLEV Project** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Wednesday,September 9 at 7:30pm **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** On the Agenda: Discussion of the Proposed Royal Farms-Detailed Site Plan.

Wednesday, September 9 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Prince George’s County School Board Representative Joshua Thomas** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Thursday,September 10 at 7:30pm **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD** On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Community Feedback, Greenbelt Fair & Just Policing Act Proposal, Reports from CRAB




*This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).*

### WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7-11



## HOLIDAY COLLECTION SCHEDULE

### Refuse/Recycling Postponed by one day

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				
Monday Pick-up	Tuesday Pick-up	Wednesday Pick-up	Thursday Pick-up	Friday Pick-up

There will be no appliance/metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, September 11.

City Offices will be closed Monday, September 7. The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000

### WEED WARRIORS: Invasive Plant Pull

Saturday, September 12th from 10 AM – 1 PM  
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Be a part of the community effort to remove invasive plant species from the environment at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive vines from native trees and to pull other invasive plant species. Masks will be required at all times.

Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Students: bring community-service forms
- Volunteers must register in order to participate

To Register: Contact Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at [kdrriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdrriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov)

### Greenbelt CARES provides Free Individual Adult and Family Counseling

Currently all sessions provided via Teletherapy

Common Issues Addressed in Counseling:

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### GREENBELT CARES

Do you want to learn English? FREE (Gratis) ESOL Classes



Online Lessons from September 8-December 14  
Ages 21+ (Must be Prince George’s County Resident)  
Contact: [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov) or 202-740-6473

## Mom’s Morning Out



### Licensed Preschool Program

Offering a combination of virtual learning and outdoor classroom experiences. (COVID-19 waiver required). Parent input is welcome! Weekly learning packets will be provided and virtual group lessons will be scheduled daily.

The hybrid model will offer a traditional preschool program that provides activities that encourage social development, offer beginning reading,math and science curriculum, develop fine and gross motor skills, and encourage lots of fun with peers.

Please call 301-397-2200 to receive an email or phone call from our Preschool Director for more details. Registration is ongoing, so sign up soon to reserve your spot. Student registration packet due before the first day of class.

**Monday-Friday, 15 wks: 9/8 -12/18\***  
(no class: 11/11, 11/23-27); R: \$300, NR: \$350  
Instructors: Gaye Houchens and Shelley Cooper



### GREENBELT CARES

Do you want to earn your GED? FREE GED Preparation Classes for Ages 16+ Online Lessons and Supportive Tutoring September 8 – December 14

Must be Prince George’s County Resident  
To Enroll: [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov) or 202-740-6473

### GREENBELT CARES

Does your child need help with Math, Reading, Social Studies, or other School work?



### Free Tutoring

Where: Online Lessons and Supportive Tutoring  
When: Fall 2020 (September 8 – December 14)  
Ages 6 – 18  
(Must be Prince George’s County Resident)  
To Enroll: [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov) or 202-740-6473

### YOUTH CENTER UPDATE-99 CENTERWAY

Beginning on Thursday, September 3, 2020 the Youth Center will open for visitors to use the restrooms and to purchase tokens for the Braden Field Tennis Court lights. The Token machine only accepts \$1 and \$5 bills. The hours for operation will be Monday thru Friday from 12 noon to 8 p.m. On Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays the Youth Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Only one visitor will be allowed in the facility at a time. All visitors must practice physical distancing and wear a face covering over their mouth and nose. Visitors will have their temperature taken and be required to answer a few basic health questions upon entry.

**We appreciate your patience! If you have any questions or concerns please call 301-397-2200.**



SCHOOL continued from page 1

The Office of Technology has provided students with laptops and tablets to participate in on-line learning; however due to the national shortage of devices, every student has not yet received their devices. From August 31 through September 18, to keep students who do not have devices engaged and involved, lessons will air on PGCPs-TV (Comcast channel 96, Verizon channel 38 or PGCPs-TV online) for Pre-K through fifth grade. The lessons will cover reading, math, science and social studies. In addition, art, dance, music, language immersion and Montessori moments will be broadcast as well.

For students in need of meals, the food and nutrition service is offering grab-and-go meals that will be served two days a week. On Monday, students can pick up two meal packages and on Wednesday, three meal packages will be available for pickup. The meals consist of a full breakfast and lunch. Meals will be distributed between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

“This school year we are vir-

tually together,” said Goldson. “We are embarking on new territory and I am confident that our students and teachers will face this challenge head-on. Whether learning at home or in the classroom, our standard remains the same: high-quality teaching and learning.”

Parent Distance Learning Support Centers opened August 31 to assist with tech support, navigating aspects of distance learning and accessing instructional packets. These facilities are open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 10 a.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. and are located at various schools in the county (see [pgcps.org/Samuel-P-Massie/Parent-Distance-Learning-Support-Centers/](http://pgcps.org/Samuel-P-Massie/Parent-Distance-Learning-Support-Centers/) for a list of Parent Center locations). In addition, PGCPs has set up a Distance Learning hotline Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to assist with any issues. Parents can call 240-696-6229 to get help with any distance learning question.

Council Ponders New Rules, Fees For Reopening of City’s Dog Park

by Matthew Arbach

On Monday, August 24, the Greenbelt City Council debated the steps needed to reopen the Dog Park, pending a vote on a new set of rules and procedures, which could happen at the regular council meeting on Monday, September 14. Animal Control Officer Nelly Ortiz presented a proposal that included a revised set of rules, new fee structures and documentation for city permits and county licenses, as well as a system for controlled access to the park.

**Fee Structure & Amounts**

The discussion began with fees. Ortiz suggested a yearly permit fee to the city of \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. There is also a county license fee of \$10 for altered dogs and \$25 for unaltered dogs, which is set by the county and subject to change at their discretion. Due to the pandemic, county license availability has been suspended. Ortiz said that the city would try to coordinate in the near future with the county’s Animal Control office to make it possible for applicants to pay both fees at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter. The city’s fee would help pay for dog tags, waste bags, park equipment, padlocks (a proposed security system), any future water structures and administration costs.

The consensus of the council was that residents ought to pay less than nonresidents, as they are already paying city taxes that finance the city’s amenities. Ten dollars for residents was generally accepted as equitable, with some suggestions positing as high as \$25 or even no fee at all. It was indicated that these fees are nominal in the maintenance of the park, with the city shouldering the majority of costs

already. Thirty-five dollars and even up to \$50 was debated for nonresidents, although the general feeling was that the nonresident fee should not exceed the resident fee by that much as it would discourage use of the park. Making the fee structure more complicated with the addition of more dogs was seen as potentially cumbersome.

Currently, park usage is not high. Since 1996, 460 permits have been issued.

**Rules and Licensing**

Councilmember Judith Davis emphasized that the real benefit of having a permit and license fee is to ensure the health and safety of dogs and park users by making sure all dogs are properly vaccinated, and not for any monetary reasons.

A county license requires a proof of rabies vaccine and a spay/neutered certificate.

Permits are obtained in person through an application, one per dog, are renewed annually and require both a proof of vaccinations and proof of county license. It can be done at the Animal Shelter during regular hours by appointment or walk-in at a later date.

Only two of the revised rules are different from the previous set. These are: all children must be supervised, with children under age 8 discouraged from using the park, and a valid dog tag must be visible when using the park. Ortiz said these tags would be color-coded and changed each year.

Council was amenable in general to the rules, but Davis suggested condensing the list for better readability. Council felt that the rules must be signed by potential users at the time of applying as well as displayed using

signage at the park.

**Access System**

Currently, violating park rules, such as illegal entry, can only be dealt with using a warning and a request to leave, by police or a ranger. Having a citation would require amending the city’s code.

Ortiz presented a proposed controlled access system that would use a padlock on the inner gates of the park. Applicants would be given a code that would change yearly.

Council was not receptive to a padlock system, feeling that it was not safe in an emergency situation and would be difficult to manage. A card reader was preferred. Greenbelt Police Captain Gordon Pracht said that he would look into the cost of such a system and report back to council. It was generally felt that there should be no locking system in place with an initial reopening of the park until a card reader can be installed.

In the face of “the many viewpoints” expressed at the meeting, Mayor Colin Byrd concluded by saying that “we have our work cut out for us” in laying out an agreed-upon list of park rules and fee structures. He encouraged council to ponder these issues and discuss them again at the next regular meeting in September, where it is hoped a final vote will occur.



Leonora Beatrice Gaschick, a first grade student at Greenbelt Elementary School, shows her home set-up for virtual school.

PHOTO BY MELANIE GASCHICK

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# Public Works Summer Help Staff Keep the City Beautiful

by Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll

While much of everyone’s life was put on hold this year, the Department of Public Works (DPW) was still hard at work keeping the city clean and its essential services running, with the help of a group of intrepid young people. As a part of the Summer Help Program, these youth contributed to landscape and infrastructure projects throughout the city.

DPW initiated the Summer Help Program in the 1970s. This program provided temporary employment for qualified individuals until the early 1980s. The Summer Help Program was re-established in 2015 and has been in operation ever since. Several current Public Works employees started their careers as Summer Help staff. The Summer Help Program is vital to DPW in accomplishing its mission: to serve the community by preserving, maintaining and improving the city’s infrastructure and amenities.

Summer Help staff assisted various DPW crews during the summer months when the department experiences its highest demand on personnel. Given the temporary nature of Summer Help positions and the time-frame of operation, most of the qualified applicants are college students looking to broaden their skill set and earn some extra money before school starts in the fall. All work done by Summer Help focuses on the DPW mission of maintaining and beautifying Greenbelt’s public spaces.

The diverse cast of characters that comprised the Summer Help crew this summer came from differing backgrounds and are working towards a variety of future goals. Evan Ash has been working with the parks crew collecting trash, constructing infrastructure and landscaping in an effort to keep the parks looking their very best. Hailing from Green Bay, Wis., Ash is working toward his doctorate in history at the University of Maryland after receiving his bachelors from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, as a double major in history and theater. When asked what he learned during his time at DPW, Ash responded, “So many handy skills that I think will help me around my own home later in life. But also I learned what goes into building a community and what it takes to keep it looking good.” One of Ash’s favorite parts about working at DPW was that it’s “work that makes you feel good, that you’re making a difference.”

Zane Davis and Mia Fair assisted the horticulture crew. This included planting flower beds, pruning trees, mulching and pulling as many weeds as they could

get their hands on to keep the city’s landscape looking attractive and welcoming. Davis is from Durham, N.C., and is starting at Towson University this fall, where he will pursue a degree in nursing with the hopes of becoming a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA). He has known since high school that he wanted to do something in the medical field, and, with the help of his mother, a registered nurse, he was able to identify the CRNA track as his goal. Davis says he learned how to use different tools and the basics of plant identification. He will continue to develop these skills so he can take care of plants and the environment in his personal life.

Fair is from Hyattsville, is a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and received her associate degree from Prince George’s Community College. After working a number of customer service jobs over the past few years, Fair decided she wanted a change. She worked with the horticulture crew all summer and is hoping to continue working with DPW after the summer ends. “I like working with my hands now and making things look nice,” she said. When asked what she has learned so far, Fair’s face brightened with excitement. “All the power tools, all of the different plants, OPM [Organic Pest Management] and IPM [Integrated Pest Management],” she said.

“I love learning!” Fair hopes to continue to learn about nature and the environment. One of her favorite parts about working with DPW is the flower beds, “[Horticulture Crew Supervisor Jason Martin] taught me how to plant correctly and helping to realize the design and installation is really rewarding. I drive by and tell people ‘yeah I did that!’”

These young people provided an essential service to DPW and the City of Greenbelt. Their time, skills and hard work are essential for DPW to achieve its mission. In return, they learned unique and valuable skills. The Summer Help staff say they enjoyed learning to use equipment that they had never used or in some cases, had never seen before, and that they have gained an appreciation for what goes into keeping the city running.

When asked what is their favorite part about working at DPW, they all mentioned individual aspects but the recurring theme was “the people.” Davis says, “It’s good pay and rewarding work, but I’ve never worked with such a crazy, fun group before.”

DPW would like to thank Ash, Davis, Fair and all of the Summer Help staff for their efforts and for being a part of the group and hopes that they take away from this experience skills and knowledge that will aid them in the future.



Evan Ash (above) and Zane Davis (below) help out at Public Works.  
- Photos by Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll





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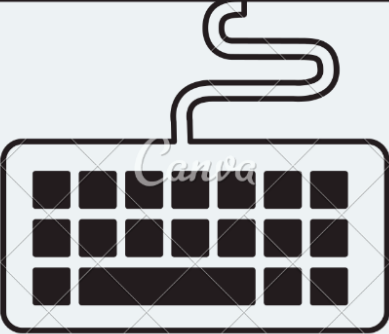
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COUNCIL continued from page 1

before the end of the year. Turner said that the county council is seeking more funds from the federal government, yet the prospects are uncertain, especially with the approaching November election.

The county has 15 COVID-19 testing locations and Turner said he would look into possibly having one at Green Ridge House as well, as per city request.

More Maglev

Concerning the maglev train proposal, the city council was unequivocal in its desire for a no-build decision to be made. Considering the devastating impact on the environment, specifically the Forest Preserve and natural areas in the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), concern about the region’s quality of life and nation’s security (with the proposed path’s proximity to the National Security Agency) were cited by all members.

All three county councilmembers expressed their support of the no-build option as well. Yet, Mayor Colin Byrd urged that the county council should come to a common decision on this in order to make the county’s viewpoint more powerful and immediate. Turner and his colleagues said that the process would be better served to wait until all the ongoing environmental impact studies have been completed so that the council can then present the strongest position possible to the federal government. Byrd felt that this might be “too little too late,” and feared any delay in voicing opposition would lead to a failure to resist effectively. He said they had the opportunity to speak up now and amplify their position later with data.

In the end, both sides respected the other’s viewpoints and Turner said that he understood the urgency of the matter. He said that now the project requiring the most attention is the proposed widening of the Beltway

(which the city council opposes as well), which will require a decision sooner. He promised that the maglev project, which had been paused to give more time for environmental review of design changes, would receive its due attention then. Councilmember Rodney Roberts expressed that both of these projects as well as others, such as the relocation of Bureau of Engraving and Printing to BARC, could spell the end of Greenbelt’s spirit and character.

Turner urged residents to plan for their voting procedure in November. The county’s Board of Election website (princegeorgescountymd.gov/559/Board-of-Elections) has a full listing of early voting and Election Day centers (11 and 29, respectively) as well as information for mail-in voting. Dropboxes will be readily available throughout the county.

Economic Recovery

Regarding the county’s economic recovery, Franklin said that “we have made strides but we have a long way to go.” County programs like Prince George’s Forward task force, the Business Relief Fund (whose \$20 million has already been spent with more funds being sought), the Economic Recovery work group and tax incentives to attract new businesses are in place to address this. He said that many businesses have proved resilient, such as the construction sector, while others, like retail and restaurants, have been hammered. He emphasized that much is uncertain and it will be hard to anticipate the full economic impact of the pandemic.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan expressed concern with the drop in office vacancies. Franklin speculated that the pandemic may completely change the future use of offices in general as teleworking has proved so viable.

Economic Development Co-

ordinator Charise Liggins explained that any Greenbelt business that has received funds from the County Business Relief Fund would be ineligible to apply for the city’s business fund. Davis said that the modest \$300,000 must be made available to as many businesses as possible.

Affordable Housing

The county is focused on the need for affordable housing. Currently, a two-year study by a newly created Housing Opportunities for All task force, as well as a review by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development, are underway to ascertain the current state of housing and possible uses of inclusionary zoning in order to devise a plan that is tailored to the county’s needs. The Housing Investment Trust Fund has been established and funded, and recently was used to address housing for veterans in Upper Marlboro.

Planning and Zoning

Byrd underlined the need for more comprehensive community planning in order to sidestep ensuing problems, such as the parking issue at Greenbelt Station.

Community Planner Molly Porter reported that the city advocates strongly for its Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone (NCOZ) as “a tool for protecting existing density, height and massing in historic Greenbelt.” A letter has been sent to the county laying out the city’s concerns. Turner welcomed the input and stated that after the Countywide Map Amendment goes into effect in 2022, due to delays engendered by the pandemic, then the NCOZ can be implemented.

Turner said to the council that “we hear you loud and clear” and appreciated the partnership with the city.



Braden Field Walk-in Movies Sold Out Through September

Through a partnership between the Old Greenbelt Theatre (OGT), Greenbelt Recreation, Greenbelt Police Department and sponsorships by Beltway Plaza and Towne Center Realty, socially distanced movies have been offered on Braden Field since early August. Patrons purchased circles that seat five (bring your own seats), which were painted on the field appropriate distances apart.

Movies were scheduled for every Friday in August and sold out in two days. September movies were added and those also sold out very quickly.

The weather has been nice the past couple of weeks, but the first week there was a downpour that started about 30 minutes into Jurassic Park. The show went on. Most families tried to shelter themselves, prepared with proper rain apparel. Only two hardy families, huddled together under

their tarps, stayed until the end. It seemed fitting that it was actually raining during the climactic rain scene in the movie. “I think it enhanced the outdoor movie experience,” said one participant.

The OGT sold concession kits prior to the movie for pickup at the theater. Dedicated Recreation staff have done an excellent job setting up the screen and technical equipment. Each week they arrive early to repaint the field, work together to position the screen and make sure the movie is ready to go before guests arrive. The staff needed to hold the screen down so it wouldn’t blow over on the first Friday when it rained. They also covered the speakers with trash bags to keep them from getting wet.

The Friday movies may continue into the fall, weather permitting.



PHOTO BY ALISON LONGWORTH

Patrons gather in their socially distanced viewing circles to watch a movie on Braden Field.



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Byrd Hosts Town Hall On Hero Garden

Mayor Colin Byrd will be conducting a town hall meeting on Friday, September 4 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. The topic of the meeting will be the proposed National Garden of American Heroes and the possibility that it may be located in Greenbelt Park. Those interested in participating in the meeting should register at [us02web.zoom.us/j/7if7Qt5k67dCV7Esj6](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7if7Qt5k67dCV7Esj6).



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Labor Day Hours: 9 am - 7 pm. Pharmacy: Closed.



# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Search Warrant**  
August 24, 11:19 p.m., 7743 Belle Point Drive. A search warrant was executed by Greenbelt police with assistance from the Prince George’s County Police Department Vice Unit and the Department of Homeland Security Human Trafficking Investigations Unit, after investigation of a resident’s complaint about possible prostitution and human trafficking at the Rising Sun massage parlor. Three women were taken into custody, one 61 years old from New Jersey, another 45 years old from New York, and the last 67 years old with no fixed address. All three were released pending charges and further investigation.

**Assault**  
August 26, 12:45 p.m., Cherrywood Lane near Greenbelt Road. A man walked up to another person waiting at the bus stop and asked him for a cigarette. When he said he did not have one, the man who wanted a cigarette raised up his shirt, which revealed the handle of a handgun. When the man at the bus stop saw this, he left the area and called police. They located a man at the rear of Beltway Plaza who matched the description but he fled on foot.

**Drug Arrest**  
August 21, 2 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A 41-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with possession of phenylcyclidine (PCP) after officers responded to a report of a person acting suspiciously outside the Giant Food grocery store. He was transported to the Department of Corrections before a hearing.

**Theft**  
August 19, 4:17 p.m., 8100 block Greenbelt Station Parkway. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence. A

video doorbell showed a 16- to 18-year-old Black youth with a thin build, closely cropped hair, wearing a blue shirt and blue jeans. A neighbor observed the incident and prevented him from taking the package before he fled on foot.

August 22, 10:09 a.m., 1 Court Gardenway. A black Onyx street bicycle was taken from the yard of a residence.

August 23, 4:06 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. Someone removed a wallet from a woman’s person as she was purchasing a lottery ticket at the Giant Food grocery store.

August 23, 6:09 p.m., 6800 block Megan Lane. Access to a person’s cash app was gained and money was withdrawn from the account.

August 24, 10:03 a.m., 7915 Mandan Road. Mail that included a Social Security card was removed from a person’s mailbox on August 10.

August 24, 1:23 p.m., 6160 Springhill Terrace. A woman lost her wallet and information in it was used by someone to access her cash app and remove money.

August 24, 4:48 p.m., 25 Court Ridge Road. A green Raleigh bicycle was taken from the backyard of a residence.

August 25, 4:18 p.m., 9114 Edmonston Court. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

August 25, 5:09 p.m., 8000 block Greenbelt Station Parkway. A man lost his wallet and information in it was used to transfer money from his bank to another person’s cash apps.

August 26, 3:13 p.m., 5995 Springhill Drive. Packages from the front stoop of a residence were taken on August 19 and 22.

**Fraud**  
August 25, 6 p.m., 8206

Greenbelt Station Parkway. A woman received a phone call from a man who told her there was a problem with her Social Security card and she would have to pay money by way of gift cards to take care of the matter. After she sent him the gift card numbers she realized she had been defrauded.

**Burglary**  
August 8, 7:40 p.m., 5821 Cherrywood Lane. A nonresident man was arrested and charged with fourth degree burglary after he was found inside an apartment that was supposed to have been vacant. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

**Vandalism**  
August 20, 10:19 p.m., 9342 Edmonston Road. A resident observed two people dressed in all black shatter his bedroom window with an unknown object.

**Vehicle Crime**  
August 26, 22 Court Ridge. The driver’s side window was broken and a handicap placard taken.

August 21, 211 Lakeside Drive. Paint on the driver’s side door was scratched.

*The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.*

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*People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling Drug Tip Line - 240-542-2145.*

## New Police Academy Graduates



The Greenbelt Police Department is proud to announce the successful graduation of its four newest officers from the University of Maryland Police Academy. Welcome aboard and congratulations. Front row from left, Dominiquea Trotter, Albert Murray, Brandon Wright, with Lieutenant Jermaine Gullede; back row from left, Chief Richard Bowers and Peter Shephard

## BALLOTS continued from page 1

This way, once the ballot is marked, it can be dropped off at a drop box should the voter want to avoid in-person voting lines. The ballot must be placed in its return envelope and the envelope must be signed on the outside by the voter and properly sealed. The return envelope comes with the ballot and is marked and bar-coded to correspond specifically to each voter’s information so that once a ballot is returned, the county board knows that the voter has voted.

During the primary, the mistake of failing to sign the outside of the ballot return envelope caused some ballots to be rejected and thus not counted. Sign the envelope.

Options to this method of returning the completed ballot are to mail the envelope to the county board using the official return envelope provided. Again, the envelope must be signed by the voter or the ballot will not be counted.

Voters could also bring their completed ballots to a voting center to deliver it in person during the days of early voting through the final day, Tuesday, November 3. Anyone who is concerned about whether one’s ballot might not be accepted may bring it to a voting center to hand it in in person. Matching one’s current signature against an older signature can be a concern.



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**BOXED:** \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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My Perspective

# An Important Maglev Lesson Learned From the Movie, My Cousin Vinny

by Greg Simmons

If the Greenbelt City Council has seen My Cousin Vinny, then it knows why it needs to quickly wrap its collective brain around hiring an expert to review the looming Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev project draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) at its September 8 worksession.

In the film, Mona Lisa Vito takes the stand to give her expert opinion on a key photo showing skid-marks of a car the murder defendants were allegedly driving. “There is no way that these tire marks were made by a ’64 Buick Skylark” – the car the defendants were arrested in. “These marks were made by 1963 Pontiac Tempest,” Ms. Vito explains.

Besting the FBI tire expert, Ms. Vito says, “The car that made these two equal-length tire marks had Positraction,” which she explains is a limited slip differential, which distributes power equally to both the right and left wheels.

The ’64 Skylark did not have this, Ms. Vito explains, and in fact, only two U.S. production cars with it at the time also had independent rear suspension (to hop the curb), and sufficient power to make the skid marks: the Corvette, “which,” Ms. Vito notes archly, “could never be confused with the Buick Skylark” – and the 1963 Pontiac Tempest.

The underdog defense attorney, Vinny Gambini, then delivers the meatball pitch to his expert automotive witness – “And because both cars were made by GM, were both cars available in metallic, mint green paint?”

“They wuh!” Er, “were,” Ms. Vito delivers in dramatic perfection, in Brooklyn-ese. Case closed.

The SCMaglev project, sadly, is not as simple as knowing the differences in production years in General Motors Corp. cars, and Mr. Gambini, even if he were real, is a criminal defense attorney, not an attorney trained in administrative law and federal rail project approval regulations and policy.

But the essential idea is this: To put on a good case where there is legal effect of disputed

facts, such as the SCMaglev project, the people who have something to lose need to establish the facts that are important to helping their case, and maybe more importantly (as shown in My Cousin Vinny), they need to contest the facts used by the opposing case.

When it comes to the SCMaglev project, maybe the people who have the most to lose are those in Greenbelt. There are hundreds of property owners here alone whose property could be diminished by the physical impacts of the digging project, as well as the looming battle for rights to cross property lines (in legal terms, this refers to eminent domain or condemnation). Many have pointed to what appear to be further impacts on the city’s Forest Preserve, and the peace and quiet it affords. At least one proposed path would cross within feet of Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Beyond Greenbelt and heading south, schools, parks and homes will be tunneled under for a project that has no obvious benefit to Greenbelt.

The issue of most concern to myself and many in Greenbelt East is the effect of the digging project and prolonged life thereafter on what I understand is a soft-soil condition throughout the area. A limited amount of research I was able to do on this subject pointed me in the direction of needing the expertise of a geotechnical engineer.

And let there be no doubt that this is a legal case. The approval process, including the National Environmental Policy Act environmental review, is guided by mountains of laws, regulations, legally binding guidance and executive orders. A professional expert used to working with these rules, however, should be able to navigate them without too much trouble and preserve any appellate rights citizens might have if the approval goes through despite these efforts.

Given that private citizens have so far been unable to muster the resources among themselves

to provide professional, detailed and incisive comments that will be needed to protect their interests in this review process and any potential later legal appeals, all within a potential 45-day comment period on the DEIS this coming spring, the City Council must act collectively to do what is needed to protect its residents and their interests. And the best thing they can do right now is get someone on their roster who can tell the difference between a train that will wreck our community and one that may be

harmless.

If the City Council doesn’t think that’s the best thing to do, then maybe they should try watching My Cousin Vinny, but with Ms. Vito’s key testimony deleted from the script, and see how good Vinny’s case would have been without it.

*Greg Simmons is a Greenbelt East resident who lives in a condominium community in the proposed path of the B-W SCMaglev project. He can be reached at greg.simmons.esq@gmail.com.)*





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**Estate Sale** GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.

**Brick Townhome with Addition** Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

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FESTIVAL continued from page 1

several community groups, have worked to make as many activities as they could virtual, available online.

The main thing to remember this year is that in order to participate in the various events, regularly check the Labor Day committee's Facebook page (facebook.com/greenbeltlaborday) and its website (greenbeltlaborday.com).

What events will be happening this year? On Friday evening, September 4, there will be an Outstanding Citizen event. It will feature a retrospective of past Outstanding Citizens. The committee advises all who are interested to keep an eye on the website and Facebook page for more information.

Pet Show

This year's festival will include, as usual, a pet show but, not as usual, it will be virtual. The show opens Wednesday, September 2 at noon and will close Sunday, September 6 at 5 p.m. Photos of pets will be accepted during this time. Pet show participants may post a photo on the Labor Day Festival Facebook event page. As the committee says on that page, "we may be missing the usual Labor Day Festival this year, but our pets aren't any less cute." Participants may post pictures of their pets by clicking on the pet show event photo, then clicking on Discussion on the event page. Virtual awards will be announced Monday, September 7, by 5 p.m., after being judged by Girl Scout Troop 27.

Crafts and Photos

This year's craft fair will be, as it usually is, an opportunity for local artists to display their handmade crafts. This year's virtual craft show will start on Friday, September 4 with videos from each of the craft fair participants posted to the Festival website. Also, several of the craftspeople will be selling their crafts via links that will be available through the Festival website and Facebook page.

Like the rest of the festival, the Community Photo Show will look and feel a little different this year. Online viewing of the photos entered into the show will begin on Saturday, September 5 at 1 p.m. and run through Monday, September 7. Both adults and children (12 years and younger) were invited to enter up to two photographs. Categories for photos this year included In a COVID-19 World, Proud America, Extreme Weather, Those Who Serve and Protect Us, Greener Living in Greenbelt, My Greenbelt/Greenbelt Memories, Landscapes: Sunrise/Sunset, Landscapes: All Other, People: Photos of Children, People: Photos of Adults/Families, Flowers, Wild Animals and Nature, Pets, Travel, Buildings/Architecture and Still Life/Pictorial/Abstract.

Parade

The 2020 Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Parade was scheduled to take place on Monday, September 7, from 10 a.m. to noon. This year would have marked the 65th year of the parade. The first parade took place in 1956 during the second year of the Labor Day Festival.

Unfortunately, with large crowds now prohibited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee will not be able to stage its traditional parade. Instead it



Coco the Chihuahua performs at the Children's Pet Show at the Labor Day Festival in 2018.



Ella and Anna Chandler stand by their 3-D art at the Labor Day Art Show in 2018. The twins' grandmother, Joanne Tucker, works at the Greenbelt News Review and mom, Lynn, grew up in Greenbelt.



Mikayla, left, and Zanelle Williams dance to the Beach Boys Band at the 2019 Labor Day Festival.

will make available a historical video of the Greenbelt Labor Day Parade that will stream over the internet during the usual date and time of the parade, 10 a.m. to noon on Labor Day, Monday, September 7. This historical video will feature best in parade entrants over the past 20 years of the parade.

In addition, earlier during the Labor Day weekend (date/time TBD) the committee will stream the video of the entire 2019 Greenbelt Labor Day Parade.

Retro Town Fair

Entries for the Retro Town Fair were accepted through August 31. Winners will be announced Sunday, September 6 on

the Greenbelt Museum's website: greenbeltmuseum.org. The categories included: flowers and vegetables, baked goods, canned goods, needlework, crafts, open category (including items such as jewelry, woodworking, doll-making) and mask/face covering. Also included in this year's fair is the legacy handcraft exhibition. In this category, entrants are invited to share an item that is an heirloom handcraft made by an entrant, or by a family member, more than 10 years ago. This category will not be judged but is for viewing only. The winners of the Retro Town Fair will be announced on the Museum website.

Labor Day Book Treasure Hunt is Socially Distanced

by Melissa Sites



The Greenbelt Elementary PTA used book sale is hopping in 2019.

The Annual Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) PTA Labor Day Book Sale will be held on Saturday, September 5 in a new and creative format, dispersed for safety across a number of volunteers' yards. Book seekers are encouraged to roam throughout Greenbelt from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. using an online treasure map to locate yards where books are being given away. Volunteer book "sellers" include families whose children attend GES or anyone who is interested in giving away books to support a charitable cause.

The GES PTA Book Sale has been an annual tradition for many years, going back to the 1960s. This traditional highlight of Labor Day Weekend will continue this year due to Greenbelt's indefatigable community spirit, with many volunteers pitching in to accomplish the sale safely under challenging circumstances. The book sale, a primary fundraiser for GES PTA, has been known to move as many as 30,000 books over the course of the four-day weekend, all generously donated, sorted and sold by volunteers, and purchased by booklovers whose donations support GES.

All books will be free for the taking, with no money being collected at the various book sites. GES PTA is hoping that book recipients will make an online donation at paypal.me/greenbeltespta. Under normal circumstances, the PTA Book Sale has charged \$1 for paperbacks and \$2 for hardbacks, but this year any donation to support the PTA will be

appreciated.

On Sunday, book donors are welcome to deliver any remaining books directly to the leftover-book buyer, Nelson, which has supported GES PTA in this manner for several years. The leftover-book buyer will be available on Sunday, September 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot behind the Co-op grocery store. CDs and DVDs are accepted, but not encyclopedias, textbooks or games. Volunteers are unable to pick up books from homes this year.

GES PTA suggested several ways to give away books more efficiently. Donors should not feel obligated to monitor the books during the day on Saturday. Books may be displayed on a blanket or table, or in boxes. Displaying books in boxes title side up is helpful to browsers, as is sorting fiction from non-fiction, and displaying children's books separately. Several donors could combine their donations and cooperate with neighbors to put more books together in one yard, or, ask friends for book donations. The PTA also suggests supplying hand sanitizer for browsers if possible. Browsers are asked to wear their masks and keep an appropriate distance from other browsers.

Go to bit.ly/3h0o1U9 to fill out a form to become a book selling host site, to find the map of other host sites or to donate money to GES PTA. Alternatively, look up the Greenbelt Elementary PTA on Facebook. Contact greenbeltespta@gmail.com with any questions.



The 2018 Festival at night